

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended): ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ A method for producing a polyimide film comprising polyimide whose imidization ratio ranges from 98% to 100% and satisfying an optical characteristic condition represented by the formula (1) below:

$$n_x > n_y > n_z \quad (1),$$

wherein n_x , n_y and n_z respectively indicate refractive indices in an X-axis direction, a Y-axis direction and a Z-axis direction in the polyimide film, with the X axis corresponding to an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a surface of the polyimide film, the Y axis corresponding to an axial direction perpendicular to the X axis within the surface, and the Z axis corresponding to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X axis and the Y axis, the method comprising:

(A) a step of applying a solution of polyimide having an imidization ratio of 98% to 100% onto a plastic base and drying the solution, thus forming a polyimide coating; and

(B) a step of stretching the polyimide coating together with the plastic base so as to satisfy the formula (1) above,

wherein the plastic base comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of polyester, cellulose ester, polyolefin, substituted polyolefin, polycarbonate and polysulfone, and

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wherein the polyester comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene isophthalate, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthalate, the cellulose ester comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of triacetylcellulose, cellulose propionate and cellulose butyrate, the polyolefin comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of polynorbornene, polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene, the substituted polyolefin comprises at least one of isobutene-N-methylmaleimide copolymer and acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, the polycarbonate comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate of bisphenol A, polycarbonate of bisphenol C (2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,1-dichloroethylene), polycarbonate of alkylidenebisphenol and polycarbonate of cycloalkylidenebisphenol, the polysulfone comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethersulfone, polyarylethersulfone, polyphenylsulfone and bisphenol A polysulfone.

18. (Currently Amended): An optical element, whose one surface or both surfaces are laminated with ~~[[the]]~~ an optical film according to claim 6, comprising a polyimide layer formed of a polyimide film, comprising polyimide whose imidization ratio ranges from 98% to 100% and satisfying an optical characteristic condition represented by the formula (1) below:

$$\underline{n_x > n_y > n_z} \quad (1),$$

wherein n_x , n_y and n_z respectively indicate refractive indices in an X-axis direction, a Y-axis direction and a Z-axis direction in the polyimide film, with the X axis corresponding to an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a surface of the polyimide film, the Y axis corresponding to an axial direction perpendicular to the X axis within the surface, and the Z axis corresponding to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X axis and the Y axis.

19. (Currently Amended): An image display apparatus, comprising ~~[[the]]~~ an optical film ~~according to claim 6, comprising a polyimide layer formed of a polyimide film, comprising polyimide whose imidization ratio ranges from 98% to 100% and satisfying an optical characteristic condition represented by the formula (1) below:~~

$$n_x > n_y > n_z \quad (1),$$

wherein n_x , n_y and n_z respectively indicate refractive indices in an X-axis direction, a Y-axis direction and a Z-axis direction in the polyimide film, with the X axis corresponding to an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a surface of the polyimide film, the Y axis corresponding to an axial direction perpendicular to the X axis within the surface, and the Z axis corresponding to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X axis and the Y axis.

20. (Currently Amended): An image display apparatus, comprising ~~[[the]]~~ an optical element ~~according to claim 7~~ whose one surface or both surfaces are laminated with the polyimide film, comprising polyimide whose imidization ratio ranges from 98% to 100% and satisfying an optical characteristic condition represented by the formula (1) below:

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$n_x > n_y > n_z$ (1),

wherein n_x , n_y and n_z respectively indicate refractive indices in an X-axis direction, a Y-axis direction and a Z-axis direction in the polyimide film, with the X axis corresponding to an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a surface of the polyimide film, the Y axis corresponding to an axial direction perpendicular to the X axis within the surface, and the Z axis corresponding to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X axis and the Y axis.